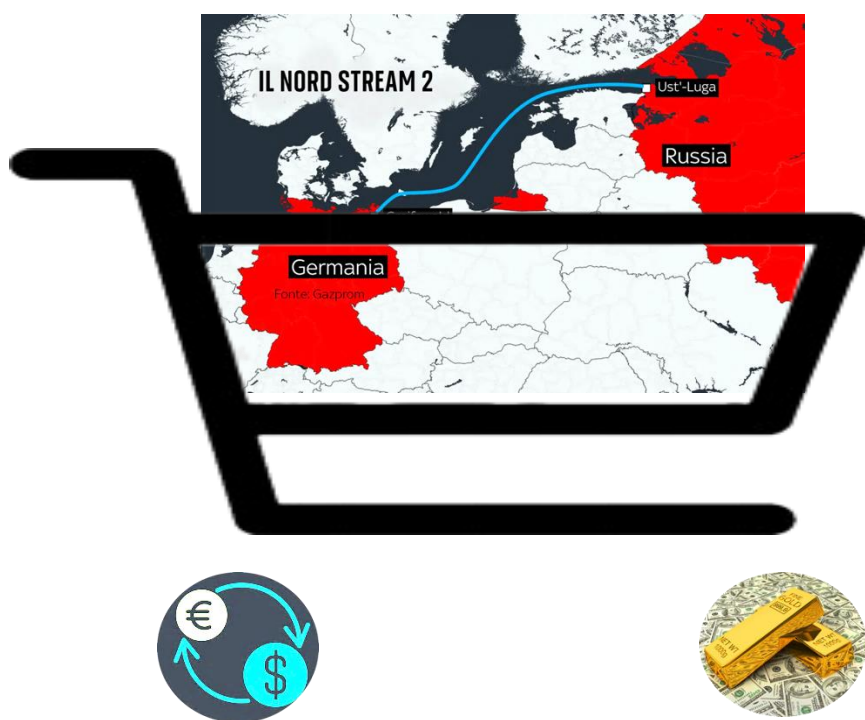


2nd biyearly
UNICARTTrade**E**conomy & **F**inance
International Conference



Book of Abstract

from 7th to 9th May 2025

Great Hall - Calabria University, Arcavacata di Rende (Cosenza) Italy
Department of Business Administration and Law
DiSCAG



2025



International Academic
Research Center - UNICART



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**International Conference
from 7th to 9th May 2025**

**Hosted at University of Calabria
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Abstracts Book

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Cekani I., Favia F, Iaquinta P., eds. (2025). *Abstracts Book of the 2nd biyearly UNICARTradEconomy & Finance - UNICART International Conference from 7th to 9th May 2025*
IARC-ETQA Publishers, Tirana-Bruxelles

ISBN 978-2-931089-50-7

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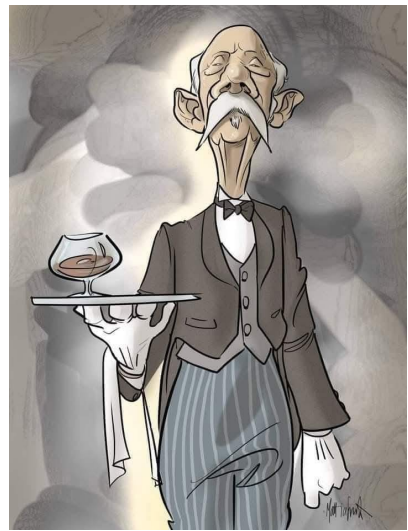
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*Ti domandi mai che senso ha continuare a lottare, Lloyd?
Sono un maggiordomo, Sir. Più che domandare, passo il tempo a spolverare
Appunto, Lloyd. A cosa serve? Tanto la polvere ritorna
Serve a ricordarci una cosa importante, Sir
E cosa?
Che la bellezza di ciò che ci circonda non è una qualità,
ma una conquista di ogni giorno, Sir
Pensiero impegnativo, Lloyd
Come tutto ciò che rende la vita brillante, Sir.*



*Do you ever wonder what the point is in continuing to fight, Lloyd?
I am a butler, Sir. More than asking, I spend my time dusting
Exactly, Lloyd. What is the point? The dust returns anyway
It serves to remind us of something important, Sir
And what?
That the beauty of what surrounds us is not a quality, but an achievement of every day, Sir
A challenging thought, Lloyd
Like everything that makes life brilliant, Sir.*

Simone Tempia – Vita con Lloyd

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ISBN: 978-2-931089-50-7

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TRADE SESSION



Investments for the growth of the circular economy

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In recent years, European Union governments have set themselves the goal of creating an economic system that is sustainable from an environmental, economic and social point of view. In this regard, we can observe that the financial sector is the one most affected by the changes, through measures that seek not only to improve market transparency, but also to integrate environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles into both products and investment processes. In particular, the financial sector has seen regulatory improvements thanks to the issuing of regulations by the EU such as: Renewed Sustainable Finance Strategy, Next Generation EU and EU Green Deal, EU taxonomy (EU Regulation 2020/852), Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR, EU Regulation 2019/2088) and Climate benchmarks (EU Regulation 2019/2089). Regarding the markets, sustainable finance has developed strongly since 2018: many operators consider ESG criteria in their investment choices. In this work we will try to delve deeper into the evolution of sustainable finance. Finally, we will try to highlight the importance of the circular economy not only for the environment, but also for the economy. On the other hand, the United Nations Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement on climate, the international community has consecrated the importance but also the need to undertake concrete measures to mitigate and oppose the negative effects of climate change, with the aim of creating a more sustainable economic development model from both an environmental and social point of view. Therefore, in this context, the circular economy becomes fundamental because it suggests production systems capable of safeguarding the value of products: it is no coincidence that waste is not considered waste elements, but resources to be transformed and put back into use on the market.

Keywords:

Investments, Sustainability, Circular Economy

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Increasingly Prioritizing Sustainability

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Consumers are increasingly prioritizing sustainability as they are experiencing the disruptive impacts of climate change in their own lives. The last years, consumer attitudes and their awareness towards sustainable and "green" brands have increased significantly. Every day, they are becoming more and more aware of using products that do not have a negative impact on the environment.

The companies are therefore transforming their own business production strategy and implement sustainable development along their own value chain to combat climate change and, at the same time, remain competitive while maintaining their market position. But they face a challenge: to communicate their commitment to sustainability transparently, moving from traditional marketing strategies to green marketing, including communicating sustainability on social media. This study highlights the factors influencing green consumption and green consumer behavior and analyze strategies for developing green consumption from the perspective of consumer enterprises.

It also highlights what are the expectations for the future regarding consumer behavior, as well as the strategies that companies are expected to undertake.

Keywords: *Green Products, Consumer Behavior, Green Marketing, Green Consumption, Future*

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From Unity to delay: an analysis of the causes of the North-South divide in Italy

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The divide between Northern and Southern Italy, which emerged after the unification in 1861, is the result of a complex interplay of historical, economic, political, and social factors. While regional differences were initially less pronounced, the industrialization of the North widened the gap, leading to an unbalanced development in terms of income, infrastructure, and innovation. The causes of the South's lag are diverse. Some theories attribute it to unfavorable political decisions, both local and national, while others point to cultural and social factors. Outdated hypotheses attempted to explain it through anthropological or even genetic arguments, but this analysis highlights the decisive role of geography: the North's proximity to European markets facilitated industrialization, whereas the South, hindered by inadequate infrastructure and its distance from key economic centers, fell behind. Italy represents a unique case of regional disparity due to its persistence and scale. The South, covering 40% of the national territory and home to 35% of the population, continues to lag behind the Center-North, with significant economic, social, and political repercussions. This study emphasizes how political choices, market dynamics, and historical legacies have reinforced this divide, which remains evident despite globalization.

Keywords: History of the Italian Divide, North-South Divide, Inequalities, Regional Lag.

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Innovative Territorial Strategies for Tourism: The Role of Strategic Planning in the PST 2023-2027

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Italy boasts the richest cultural resource heritage globally. However, challenges persist in southern regions regarding the structure of offerings and efficient management of services for tourism purposes. The tourism sector today faces unprecedented, complex challenges such as climate change and the ever-evolving preferences of travelers. This article explores the central role of strategic planning in addressing these challenges and adopting innovative strategies aligned with the Strategic Tourism Plan 2023-2027 published by the Ministry of Tourism. The plan provides a unified framework for institutions and operators, promoting five fundamental pillars: Shared governance encouraging collaboration between regions and the state. Digitization of services to enhance efficiency and modernization. Promotion of quality and inclusion to valorize authenticity and broaden tourist flows. Professional training to improve human capital skills. Sustainability aimed at preserving territories and boosting the attractiveness of small villages. Analyzing international best practices, the article proposes an integrated model that values territories by promoting authenticity, targeting new market segments, and strengthening small villages. A participatory, multidisciplinary approach involving public and private entities seeks to make tourism cohesive, resilient, and competitive. In conclusion, strategic planning plays a crucial role in overcoming the complex challenges of the tourism sector, particularly in tourism-oriented areas. Adopting an integrated approach based on shared governance, innovation, quality, inclusion, training, and sustainability—alongside drafting local tourism development plans—enables the valorization of cultural heritage in small municipalities and internal areas. This creates high-quality tourism offerings, turning tourism into a driver of economic and social growth.

Keywords: Tourism, strategic planning, southern regions, Economic and social growth

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Wine tourism and oil tourism: an experimental model of economic and social growth for agricultural producers and rural areas

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In the current tourist scenario, the modern traveler is constantly seeking authentic experiences, in order to immerse himself in the identity and cultural aspects that characterize a specific territory. Food and wine tourism plays a strategic role for the economic and cultural enhancement of rural areas, as shown by statistics. More in general, food represents an important sector for the promotion of Made in Italy and, in particular, wine and oil are among the products that best represent Italy abroad. Among the Italian regions, Calabria is showing a certain dynamism in the promotion of agri-food products, standing out for a good export performance, although its contribution to the national context remains limited. This region, thanks to its cultural and food and wine resources, presents a strong growth potential. Oil and wine represent the culture, history and identity of Calabria, as well as of many territories where the cultivation of olive trees and grapevines remains predominant and for years has represented the only source of income for several generations. They also constitute an important heritage, capable of becoming a tourist attraction, able to meet the needs of international tourists who are constantly seeking well-being and identity-related agricultural products. Wine in Calabria has represented an identity symbol since ancient Greece, a period in which it was called Enotria, land of win. In the same way, oil, which has always been used also in liturgical and pharmacological context, today is a symbol of a healthy food culture thanks to the Mediterranean diet. These products, in addition to their cultural value, are the emblem of the development of new forms of tourism such as Wine tourism and Oil tourism. This happens because the 21st century's tourist is an increasingly aware and global traveler, keeping attention to environmental and sustainable issues, who recognizes and appreciates the quality of products. Trends show that these are tourists interested in visiting wineries and oil mills, learning about production techniques, rural landscapes and fully immersing themselves in local traditions and paths of authentic taste and wellness.

Keywords: Mediterranean Diet; Made in Italy; Wine tourism; Oil tourism.

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Types of tourism in Berat region

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Tourism is becoming the most essential industry in the service sector of the Albanian economy in general and of the Berat region in particular. The Berat region is a territory with considerable tourist potential, promoting various types of tourism. Tourism is becoming one of the main pillars of the economy of this region. The diversity of assets that this region has enables a wide range of tourist activities and experiences. The purpose of this paper is to reveal in a concise manner the diversity and richness of the tourism offer of the Berat region by listing the types of tourism starting from urban and rural tourism and continuing with cultural, religious, natural, adventure tourism, ecotourism, agrotourism, culinary tourism, etc. In this paper, we will highlight the assets that this region has and the work that has been done to promote them and turn them into tourist attractions. Of course, this paper will not leave unanalyzed the problems, shortcomings and challenges that are observed in terms of types of tourism, as well as the ways and ideas for further improving this industry. For the realization of this paper, descriptive and analytical methods were used. Using the technique of using bibliographies, studies and articles of Albanian and foreign researchers as well as through the observation instrument, qualitative data were reviewed, consulted and interpreted to identify issues related to the development of different types of tourism.

Keywords: Tourism, region, tourism assets, diversity, challenges, improvements.

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The authentic value of micro destinations: enhancing experiential tourism in Calabria

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Tourism represents one of the fundamental and strategic components of our economy, we are talking about relaunching experiential tourism in Calabria, which develops by enhancing micro-destinations: small villages, inland areas and seaside resorts that present traditional and authentic experiences. In recent years, the tourism sector has undergone significant changes, influenced by technological advances, socio-cultural changes and environmental challenges. One of the main challenges that characterizes tourism for the future is the ever-increasing importance given to sustainability. Calabria, rich in cultural identity, traditions and uncontaminated landscapes, is establishing itself as a driver of sustainable and regenerative tourism. The synergy between food and wine and craftsmanship allows visitors to come into direct and unique contact with the territory and its community, promoting local economic development and helping to combat the phenomenon of depopulation. From this awareness, Calabria proposes itself as an ideal laboratory for a tourism that values the plurality of points of view and perspectives through experience and authenticity. Starting from the centrality of the concept of rebirth, in Calabria we can mention places like Gerace, Morano Calabro, Scilla, Civita and Bova, true destinations of rediscovery that preserve ancient stories and offer genuine experiences such as the olive harvest, excursions between the Pollino and Aspromonte Parks and also the discovery of linguistic minorities such as the Arbëreshë or Grecanic ones. We cannot help but also consider the pandemic and post-pandemic impact, which has influenced tourists' travel methods by encouraging the discovery of intermediate places, far from large cities and characterized by a strong desire for connection with nature.

Keywords: Experiential tourism, Cultural identity, Authenticity

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Ecosolidarity imaginaries. Stills from Chiapas between environmentalism, indigenism and post-colonialism

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The interior areas of southeastern Mexico, on the border with Guatemala, have been the scene of the Zapatista insurrection for thirty years. Men and women of various indigenous ethnic groups, heirs of the ancient Mayan people (Tzotzil, Tzeltal, and others who inhabit Chiapas) began a struggle in 1994 against the forms of political-economic and social oppression that took the form first of European colonialism, then of internal racism against the indigenous people, then of the neoliberal economy.

The cry “Ya Basta!” thus becomes a programmatic manifesto through which to configure a rebellion of the various social minorities that together form the majority of the population (that of the excluded and the marginalized) for the realization of a socioeconomic and political alternative.

In one of the poorest places on earth, yet richest in natural resources, indigenous populations still practice practices inherited from the Mayan heritage such as the “milpa”, collective cultivation of the land characterized by traditional forms of environmental protection (e.g. crop rotation and selective deforestation to protect biodiversity).

Ancient and post-modern imaginaries create a mix of pre-Columbian and situationist attitudes that generate forms of transnational solidarity: from fair trade in coffee and cocoa (ancient Mayan currency), to crowdfunding projects for the construction of social infrastructures (from the stadium named in memory of the Venetian activist Francesco Romor known as “El Bae”, to medical facilities), through civil struggles against gender violence and drug trafficking.

The contribution intends to investigate the possibilities of generating, through audiovisual products created by indigenous Chiapas artists, social (but also commercial and tourist) imaginaries characterized by innovative solidarity paradigms.

Keywords: Imaginaries, Environmentalism, Indigenism, Post-Colonialism, Chiapas

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Due diligence and sustainability reporting in large corporations: regulatory spillovers across value chains

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The European Union's regulatory process aimed at establishing, for large corporations, detailed rules on both sustainability and due diligence reporting, has been underway for over a decade (see EU Directive 2014/95, regarding the disclosure of non-financial information). As a result of this development, corporations operating within the internal market are now required to ensure that their activities do not cause negative environmental impacts (see EU Directive 2024/1760, Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive). At the same time, regarding the sustainability reporting on environmental and social matters, EU regulations impose additional disclosure requirements on larger companies, which go beyond traditional data, and must be adhered to through strict common standards (see EU Directive 2022/2464, Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, transposed into Italian law by Legislative Decree No. 125/2024). A key feature of these directives is their mandatory nature, indicating a shift away from the previous voluntary approach, which incentivized corporations to voluntarily comply with human rights and environmental sustainability standards. This marks a move from a reward-based system to one based on legally binding obligations. It is also important to recognize that, as widely demonstrated in the literature, corporations are heavily influenced by the behaviour of their business partners. It is well-known that in supply chains, relationships between partners are typically governed by B2B contracts, often within the framework of contracting or supply agreements, and often revolve around a central player – usually a large company – that acts as the lead firm. The structural link between the different operators in the chain leads to the propagation of the operational and strategic choices of the dominant firm, significantly affecting the freedom of those at the lower levels of the supply chain. Therefore, it is important to explore whether the European directives on environmental sustainability will lead to regulatory spillovers along the value chains, potentially creating systemic effects that, even without direct application, might substantially impact small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). A deeper understanding of these implications requires looking at how other countries – especially the United States, Germany, and Norway – have dealt with similar issues, in order to evaluate their practical impact and draw meaningful comparisons.

Keywords: Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CS3D), Value Chains, EU Law, SMEs Impact

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Equity and sustainability: the economic and social role of transport infrastructures for the elderly

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In order to allocate significant public funds to sustainable infrastructure projects and to inform the pertinent decision-making processes, this paper offers insights into the distributive justice debate and who gains from transportation investments. Because transport infrastructures have the power to significantly alter how urban space is organized, it is critical to assess whether local governments use these resources to address or perpetuate current patterns of urban inequality, particularly when it comes to taking the needs of the elderly into account. This paper's contribution is to synthesize and critically assess the existing literature on the social and environmental effects of transportation, equity in transportation, transportation disadvantage for various social groups, and the broader relationships between social exclusion and the transportation needs of the elderly. It highlights areas for additional research, highlights knowledge gaps, and summarizes what is currently known about these problems. According to the findings of preliminary research, it is crucial to take into consideration the mobility requirements of the elderly when reforming the mobility supply. This highlights the significance of population clustering in order to provide feasible and sustainable transportation infrastructure and services.

Keywords: Equity, Sustainability, Transport investments, Impacts, Elderly

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Bridging and harmonizing Legal Traditions! Albania's Supreme Court and the important Role of Precedent in a Civil Law System.

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Even though Albania's civil law system has historically relied on codified statutes, judicial precedent as applied in the English legal systems, plays a significant role in the the judicial system and practices of the lower courts. The judiciary's hierarchical structure makes it easier to harmonize legal interpretation, especially when it comes to resolving discrepancies brought about by different decisions made by lower courts. These disparities, which compromise judicial coherence, frequently result from different factual analyses and legal reasoning. Even in jurisdictions where precedent does not legally bind courts, these factors work together to influence how the law is applied and developed. This paper's primary goal is to discuss the development of the precedent role in Albanian judicial practice, as well as the interpretation of legal provisions by clearly comparatively observing aspects of the two legal systems. Through a qualitative method based on legal scholarship, statutory frameworks, and the Supreme Court's jurisprudential harmonization efforts, this study interrogates the interplay between precedent and Albania's civil law tradition. This academic inquiry guides the following research questions. - If the continental system and that of English law go on different paths, and there are no meeting points between them, taking into account the abidingness or not of the Unifying Decisions of the Supreme Court for the treatment of similar cases or for the interpretation of legal provisions? - In cases where the Supreme Court's Unifying Decisions create jurisprudential standards that deviate from the text of statutes, how do Albanian courts reconcile these rulings with codified legal provisions? - How has the Albanian justice system incorporated common law approaches, like precedent-based reasoning, into its civil law framework to handle new legal complexities in the context of globalization-driven socioeconomic developments and transnational contractual interdependence? This study offers a critical approach through empirical evidence that exist emphasizing how necessary it is to apply unifying decisions following best practices in english legal system, for the development of the Albanian justice system, and better practical solution of various judicial issues.

Keywords: legal systems, precedent, codification, common law, civil law

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The impact of export diversification on the development of the Algerian economy.

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A mono-exportation economy is characterized by a heavy reliance on a limited range of export products—typically natural resources—at the expense of a diversified and productive economic base. In Algeria’s case, the economy is overwhelmingly dependent on hydrocarbons, making it particularly vulnerable to external shocks, especially fluctuations in global oil and gas prices. This economic model has resulted in limited diversification, dominant state intervention, structural and institutional inefficiencies, high yet inefficient public investment, a labor market marked by high unemployment, and a lack of innovation and competitiveness. To move beyond this mono-export model and toward a more resilient and dynamic economy, Algeria must implement deep economic and structural reforms. These reforms should focus on export diversification, improved governance, promotion of private investment, and the development of innovation and productivity.

Key Words: Algeria, Mono-exportation, Diversification, Exports, International Trade, Economic Development

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Food Safety and Regulatory Innovation in Global Agri-Food Trade: Health Protection, Traceability, and Intellectual Property

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International agri-food trade has become a pillar of the global economy, decisively influencing both food security and the development of low- and middle-income countries. However, the expansion of agri-food supply chains has raised new critical issues regarding consumer health and worker safety, related to exposure to chemicals and the risk of contamination. Globalisation, while expanding access to a wide range of products, has accentuated food safety hazards, including the intensive use of pesticides, the presence of harmful substances and the spread of pathogens. In this context, regulations and legal safeguards play a key role in ensuring that agri-food products meet high safety and quality standards. The article analyzes the Italian and international regulatory framework on the subject, with particular attention to European legal instruments, the contribution of international bodies such as FAO and WHO in the harmonization of global standards, with a reference also to the significant disputes on the subject. Technological developments that support the traceability and transparency of supply chains, including the use of blockchain, are also examined. The EU's food safety policy, strengthened by the 2020 European Green Deal, aims to combine the protection of human health and the environment with the functioning of the single market. These goals are integrated with the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goals 2, 3, 12 and 17, aimed at promoting safe, sustainable and inclusive food systems globally. Although European and Italian regulations are advanced, significant obstacles persist due to the inhomogeneity of regulations at international level and the complexity of supply chains. Traceability is confirmed as a strategic lever for food safety, but it is equally central to reflect on the issue of patenting in the agri-food sector. The protection of intellectual property can stimulate innovation and sustainability, but it raises legal and ethical questions, particularly in relations between developed and developing countries. The article concludes by underlining how regulatory harmonization, strengthened international cooperation, the adoption of advanced technologies and a fairer regulation of intellectual property are key elements to ensure the security and sustainability of global agri-food trade.

Keywords: Food security, International Agri-Food Trade, Traceability, Intellectual Property, Sustainable Development

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The Effectiveness of Law 73-17 in Addressing Business Distress: Between Legal Ambition and Economic Reality

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Law 73-17, which reforms Book V of the Moroccan Commercial Code, was designed to modernize the legal framework for dealing with business distress, particularly among small and medium enterprises (SMEs). By strengthening early intervention mechanisms, restructuring procedures, and creditor involvement, the law aims to preserve viable businesses and foster a culture of recovery rather than liquidation. This paper examines the **actual effectiveness** of Law 73-17 by analyzing both **quantitative indicators** (number of procedures initiated, success rates of restructuring plans, judicial processing times) and **qualitative elements** (access to legal tools, the responsiveness of commercial courts, and the level of understanding among business leaders). The findings highlight a significant gap between the law's intended objectives and its real-world application, particularly among vulnerable SMEs that lack legal literacy and adequate institutional support. The study concludes with a call for a more integrated approach that combines legal reform with institutional coordination, increased training, early-warning systems, and greater involvement of business support networks. Only through such efforts can Law 73-17 become a truly effective lever for economic resilience and business sustainability in Morocco.

Keywords: Restructuring procedure, creditors, conciliation, safeguard, effectiveness.

La legge 73-17, che riforma il Libro V del Codice di Commercio marocchino, è stata concepita per modernizzare il quadro giuridico relativo al trattamento delle difficoltà aziendali, in particolare per le piccole e medie imprese (PMI). Rafforzando i meccanismi di intervento precoce, le procedure di ristrutturazione e il coinvolgimento dei creditori, la legge mira a preservare le imprese economicamente sostenibili e a promuovere una cultura del risanamento piuttosto che della liquidazione. Questo contributo analizza l'**effettiva efficacia** della legge 73-17 attraverso l'esame di **indicatori quantitativi** (numero di procedure avviate, tassi di successo dei piani di ristrutturazione, tempi di trattamento giudiziario) e **elementi qualitativi** (accessibilità degli strumenti legali, reattività dei tribunali commerciali, livello di comprensione da parte dei dirigenti d'impresa). I risultati evidenziano un divario significativo tra gli obiettivi normativi e l'applicazione concreta della legge, soprattutto tra le PMI più vulnerabili, spesso prive di alfabetizzazione giuridica e di sostegno istituzionale adeguato. Lo studio conclude con un appello a favore di un approccio integrato, che combini la riforma legislativa con il coordinamento istituzionale, la formazione, i sistemi di allerta precoce e un maggiore coinvolgimento delle reti di supporto alle imprese. Solo attraverso tali sforzi la legge 73-17 potrà diventare un vero strumento di resilienza economica e sostenibilità aziendale in Marocco.

Parole chiave: procedura di ristrutturazione, creditori, conciliazione, salvaguardia, effettività

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Female Representation in High-Reliability and High-Tech Organizations in the Transport Sector

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The increasing complexity of global markets and rapid technological advancements underscore the importance of diversity in organizational leadership, especially in sectors characterized by stringent safety requirements and high technological intensity. The transport sector—including aviation, railways, maritime shipping, and emerging mobility technologies—epitomizes this dual challenge. Organizations in this domain must simultaneously ensure operational safety, as defined by High-Reliability Organization (HRO) principles, and foster continuous innovation to remain competitive in rapidly evolving environments.

Within this context, the persistent underrepresentation of women in leadership positions emerges as a critical issue. Extant research highlights how gender diversity can enhance organizational outcomes by improving problem-solving abilities, stimulating creativity, and promoting more inclusive decision-making processes. Gender-diverse leadership teams are better equipped to draw on varied cognitive resources, enabling higher-quality decisions and a stronger capacity to navigate complex and uncertain scenarios.

This study investigates the role and impact of female representation in leadership roles within high-reliability and high-tech organizations in the transport sector. Integrating theories of diversity, leadership styles (transactional, transformational, participative), innovation management, and organizational behavior, the research explores how gender-diverse leadership influences team dynamics, decision-making processes, and performance. Special emphasis is placed on how leadership behaviors interact with team heterogeneity—encompassing gender, age, and cultural background—to shape organizations' ability to balance operational excellence with innovative capacity.

Moreover, the study addresses the intersection of gender and technology by examining three core research questions: (1) How do digital technologies and artificial intelligence influence women's advancement into leadership roles in high-tech sectors? (2) To what extent can technological innovations contribute to closing the gender gap in high-reliability industries? (3) How do men and women perceive gender inequality and the effectiveness of technological solutions to mitigate it? Findings are expected to provide critical insights into the ways technological evolution and organizational strategies can promote gender equality and foster more inclusive and resilient leadership structures.

Keywords: Gender Diversity, High-Reliability Organizations

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ISBN: 978-2-931089-50-7

2nd biyearly UNICART*TradEconomy & Finance*
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INNOVATION TECHNOLOGY SESSION



Podcast, an Innovative Tool

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The subject of this paper is the podcast, an innovative tool that entered the panorama of media communication in the early 2000s (Bonini, 2006). The ability to offer unique opportunities for Knowledge Building (KB) in its various typologies - lecture capture, vodcasts, video podcasts, video streaming, screencast, webcasts and online video - has pushed the academic world to consider it a valid training support in teaching (Fernandez, Simo, & Sallan, 2009; O'Callaghan et al., 2017; Mooney, 2019). In fact, numerous studies have shown that it is able to contribute to improving student performance (Evans, 2008; O'Bannon et al., 2011; Van Zanten, Somogyi, & Curro, 2012). However, it is necessary to overcome the cultural resistances that have hindered the recognition of its positive influence in the traditional classroom (O'Callaghan et al., 2017). The essay initially offers a snapshot of the evolution of the KB paradigm and the impact of podcasting on learning and critical reflection. It then continues with an analysis of emerging practices that integrate formal and informal educational content, addressing the challenges posed by Generative Artificial Intelligence. The aim is to suggest effective academic pedagogical designs.

Keywords: Podcast, Knowledge Building, Improving Student Performance, Generative Artificial Intelligence

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Assessment of brand visibility through social networks in the digital environment

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Social networks have become a powerful tool for companies to achieve their marketing and business goals within IT Systems and information systems. The main purposes of using social networks for business include increasing brand awareness, interacting with customers, promoting products and services, building a community, conducting market research, lead generation and sales. One of the most important purposes of using social media for business is to develop more brand awareness. This is essential for businesses as it is the basis for building brand recognition, reputation and loyalty. Without brand awareness, it becomes difficult for a business to engage and retain customers, as consumers may not be aware of the brand's products or services. Accordingly, the best social media platform for a product will depend on the specifics of the product and the target audience. Therefore, the aim of the article is to establish how to assess the visibility of brands, identify key aspects in the composition of brand surveys, interpret the values of traffic on social media pages and determine the importance of social listening based on these elements.

Keywords: Information Systems, Brand Visibility, Social Networks, Marketing, Digital Traffic, Audience Engagement.

JEL: A1, M2, M3

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Teaching contemporary history and its impact on modern society

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This paper examines the importance of teaching contemporary history and its impact on modern society, focusing on Albania, where historical events from various periods have shaped social structures and dynamics that are still present and influential in everyday life. Contemporary history, including the communist period and the early years of political pluralism, is a rich source of learning for understanding the challenges that Albanian society has faced and continues to confront, such as migration, social inequalities, and international politics. The impact of these events on the political, economic, and social development of society is analyzed, emphasizing the importance of historical education as a tool for developing active, informed, and engaged citizenship. Teaching contemporary history is essential to create a deep understanding of the consequences of past events and to encourage critical thinking and reflection about the future. In this context, the use of various educational methods, such as the analysis of authentic materials, interviews, and documentaries, is crucial for engaging young people and promoting constructive discussions related to the consequences of recent events. Additionally, historical memory plays a key role in preserving national identity and strengthening social cohesion, helping society understand the events that have shaped the present and how they may influence the future. This paper invites reflection on the importance of historical education, which can help improve society by using lessons from the past to assist in building a more sustainable future.

Keywords: Contemporary history, history teaching, historical memory, national identity, critical education, youth activism, Albania.

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The Metaverse and European Technological Approach

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The law regulates with considerable delay the critical consequences that technological progress generates. In the universe of digital platforms (where the Metaverse is the ultimate frontier), there are opportunities, of course, but also a lot of risks for human persons and for the human rights. Nowadays, someone has faced the problems brought by digital platforms and Metaverse, where human person genetically mutates in a virtual body, a sort of digital immigrant. The telematic network surely is a fundamental step for the progress of society but, in this world, there are a lot of traps: digital sovereigns manifest themselves as centres of power, they extract and manipulate big data, so virtual person is exposed to a lot of illegal practices in these cloud empires. Fundamental rights are not maximized, and the financial gain is the best into the platform world, so one of the most important achievement of the constitutionalism – the habeas corpus – is not preserved by a social and economic power exercised by virtual sovereigns. Now, over the algorithm, we have an “extra” problem: the Metaverse, one of the most debated concept of this new era. The Metaverse is the last frontier of the development of digital platforms. As the human person immerses himself/herself and his/her physical characteristics in the Metaverse (but also into other types of platforms), more and more personal information about the behaviour assumed is collected to be used to draw individuals, groups, and collective profiles, in order to frame the person in logics of normality or usability by economic subjects. Through means of probabilistic technologies, the “Big Techno Companies” create a distinct profile on the person. They assemble all the information gathered and they not only create a snapshot of the person, but they are able to derive, with a high level of certainty, the possibility of establishing what the individual’s future behaviour will be. So, is the Metaverse, that is founded on Artificial Intelligence models, really intelligent and smart? Who controls personal data? Who is responsible for the processing of personal data? Where is personal data stored? Is personal data marketed? What is the relationship between man and interfaces machines? What is the role of capitalism respect the limits written in the Constitutions?

Keywords: Metaverse - Artificial Intelligence - Algorithm - Europe - Regulation

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Stories of Swiss from Calabria: a village on the run

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My thesis focuses on the topic of migration: a research aimed at studying the push and pull factors that lead people to move. Trying to understand the real motivations behind migration, I conducted three interviews with individuals from my hometown, San Giovanni in Fiore, a town that seems to lack a future. I asked three emigrants who moved to Switzerland about their reasons for leaving, in order to gain insight into their experiences and perspectives. Today, I wish the situation were different, and people did not feel forced to emigrate, but rather could choose their own destiny. Freedom is the most precious asset of human beings: the ability to make one's own choices, to self-determine, and to express one's own ideas is what makes a person truly human.

Keywords: Emigration - Calabria - Switzerland

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“Artificial intelligence : a catalyst for innovation and disruption in the commercial and financial spheres”

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Abstract :

Artificial intelligence (AI) is profoundly transforming the commerce and finance sectors, bringing major innovations while raising ethical and regulatory challenges. In commerce, AI is enabling greater personalization of services and optimized resource management, while in finance, it is revolutionizing trading practices, risk analysis and fraud detection. However, these advances are accompanied by crucial questions about the transparency of algorithms, the management of biases and the impact on employment. This paper proposes to explore the disruptive role of AI in these key sectors, while highlighting the ethical issues and regulatory perspectives required for responsible and sustainable adoption.

"L'intelligence artificielle : catalyseur d'innovation et de disruption dans les sphères commerciales et financières"

Résumé :

L'intelligence artificielle (IA) transforme en profondeur les secteurs du commerce et de la finance, apportant des innovations majeures tout en soulevant des défis éthiques et réglementaires. Dans le commerce, l'IA permet une personnalisation accrue des services et une gestion optimisée des ressources, tandis qu'en finance, elle révolutionne les pratiques du trading, de l'analyse des risques et de la détection des fraudes. Cependant, ces avancées s'accompagnent de questions cruciales sur la transparence des algorithmes, la gestion des biais et l'impact sur l'emploi. Cette communication propose d'explorer le rôle disruptif de l'IA dans ces secteurs clés, tout en mettant en lumière les enjeux éthiques et les perspectives de régulation nécessaires pour une adoption responsable et durable.

Keywords : AI, Commerce, Finance, Risk Analysis, Fraud Detection

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Agronomic evaluation of different almond cultivars grown in Super high-density orchards

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Almond (*Prunus amygdalus* Batsch, 1801) is one of the oldest cultivated tree species, originally native to Central Asia and introduced to the Mediterranean basin by Greek and Persian civilizations between the 5th and 4th centuries BC. In Italy, almond cultivation has been documented since the 1st century BC, particularly in Apulia and Sicily, which remain the main production areas today. In recent years, Italian almond orchards have experienced a phase of renewed interest, driven by growing global demand for nuts and by the adoption of new cultivars and advanced farming systems. Varietal research has led to the selection of self-fertile and late-flowering cultivars, ensuring stable yields and high nut quality, while adapting to various pedoclimatic conditions. Alongside cultivars, the choice of rootstocks has also evolved: traditional almond and peach seedlings have been progressively replaced by modern clonal rootstocks which allow better control of tree vigor and are essential for optimizing performance in high-density and super-intensive orchard systems. The introduction of modern cultivation models has revolutionized almond farming, enabling higher planting densities and increased productivity through the integration of irrigation, mechanization, and optimized canopy management. In particular, the super high-density (SHD) system, with densities up to 3300 trees/ha and hedgerow training systems, requires specific cultivar and dwarfing rootstock combinations to ensure agronomic efficiency, fruit quality, and economic sustainability. This research aimed to evaluate the influence of varietal genetics on vegetative growth and their suitability for SHD systems, to support more informed varietal choices in new orchard planning. The trial was carried out in a 5-hectare super-intensive almond orchard located in Gravina in Puglia (BA), testing three cultivars ('Filippo Cea', 'Guara Tuono', and 'Lauranne Avijour') to observe differences in growth, architecture, and adaptability to hedgerow training. The data showed that, among the three cultivars, 'Filippo Cea' was the most vigorous; on the other side, 'Lauranne Avijour' exhibited the lowest vigor and the highest branching, making it the most suitable for SHD systems. The results will provide useful guidelines for developing a modern, efficient, and competitive almond industry.

Keywords: Biometry, Architecture, 'Filippo Cea', 'Guara Tuono', 'Lauranne Avijour'

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Preparing for Change: Educating Young Adults for the Post-Globalization Era

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In the context of the post-globalization era we are witnessing, education plays a crucial role in shaping young adults' global responsibility. In a world characterized by complex interconnections and supranational challenges, the ability to understand and address global issues becomes fundamental.

Education is not only a vehicle for the transmission of academic and professional knowledge, but is also an essential tool for forming aware citizens of the world, capable of acting with a sense of responsibility towards the planet and its diverse populations.

Globalization, or the interconnection of economies, cultures and societies, has shaped the world for decades. However, recent trends suggest that we may have entered an era of deglobalization, in which nations prioritize self-sufficiency, regional alliances and economic protectionism.

The millennial generation – most teachers are in this age group, sic! – lives the change with suffering that it must not transmit. For young adults in Generations Zeta and Alpha, this change presents both challenges and opportunities—certainly an adjustment—here's what they need to know.

Keywords: Young Adults, Slowbalization, Deglobalization.

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Smart Food. An Exploratory Ethnographic Study on the Artificial Intelligence in Gastronomic Tourism

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The number of companies offering gastronomic tours, events, and marketing focused on food experiences has increased significantly at the global level (<https://worldfoodtravel.org>). Although gastronomic tourism has been a significant area of tourism research over the past two decades, in recent years there has been a paradigm shift in research, influenced by the anthropological perspective, seeing food as an expression of ethnic and cultural identity, rather than just a product. The rise of social media and especially AI represents, nowadays, one of the most significant changes in tourism, and companies are increasingly dependent on social media to grow and promote tourism. The proliferation of platforms for sharing content on social media and publishing reviews about food, for example, has radically changed the way food is consumed and experienced. It is a phenomenon that has led to the emergence of new gastronomic trends and new ways of sharing experiences, both online and offline, through social connections. This article, through ethnographic exploration, has focused on the analysis of a community of food travelers in Calabria, in southern Italy, who are particularly active in sharing travel experiences, and a community of foodies, interested in the social and cultural aspects of food and in the impact of media and AI in the food sector. The research aimed to analyze how these platforms, through the use of AI, are transforming the way food is experienced, consumed, and shared. During the research, particular attention was paid to the role of social media and AI in the making of new forms of culinary tourism, in the promotion of local products, and in the construction of new gastronomic identities. The article aims to offer a reflection on the role and impact of media in these platforms, about the tourism experience and its peculiar expansion.

Keywords: Ethnography, Culture, Tourism, Foodies, Gastronomic

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Towards a resilient society: geo-political dynamics, economic choices and sustainability. Nature-based solutions for green management of territory

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Humanity has always faced natural hazards such as floods, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts, etc., but in recent years these events have become increasingly catastrophic also because amplified, or even caused, by numerous human interventions on environment. This combination has weakened territory resilience, causing direct and indirect effects on population, economy and biodiversity and amplified its vulnerability. Already in 1824, Joseph Fourier, in his work entitled "Mémoire sur les températures du globe terrestre" [1] intuited that the gases presence in atmosphere could influence Earth's temperature, increasing or reducing the greenhouse effect. In summary, Fourier's intuition started a long scientific journey that led us to understand how the earth's climate is a complex system, strongly influenced by human choices. First of all, excessive urbanization has produced significant changes in natural hydrological cycle, both due to increasing soil waterproofing and to the need to guarantee services related to "water" for population [2,3]. In order to build "society of resilience", where individual and global sustainable behaviors are supporting green policies, a multi-problem approach is needed, in which geopolitical dynamics, economic choices and sustainability play a major role. The regulatory climate, the attribution of responsibility for the negative consequences of climate change and the environmental concern involve people, territories, institutions, economy and tourism because the synergistic society response is implemented through sharing, collaboration and public-private communication [4,5]. Today more than ever, this awareness is the starting point for concrete actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change. They are to be sought in adaptive sustainability of urban system where the Nature-based solutions can represent an interdisciplinary approach, through adequate government policies of continuous and constant territorial monitoring (planning), implementation of structural interventions (protection), public awareness and implementation of preventive measures (preparation) [6]. In the varied landscape of environmental disasters, this study analyses specifically the problem of urban flooding and the possible non-structural solutions and interventions to deal with it, with the aim to jointly pursuing the objective of climate change mitigation and economic growth.

Keywords: Non-Structural NBS, Climate Change Mitigation, Urban Flooding, Green Management.

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Competitiveness of SMEs on foreign markets and actions to facilitate entry into strategic and priority countries through the support of ICE Agency.

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The research aims to demonstrate the effectiveness of the institutional system for the promotion of Italian companies abroad. The internazionalization of companies is a complex process and the motivations that push an Italian company to interact with international markets are many. Accessing new markets increases the growth and profit potential of the company and diversifies the risk, allowing companies to compete on multiple fronts, reducing their vulnerability to economic and political instability, natural disasters, recessions or unfavorable demographic trend. This phenomenon, although it offers many opportunities, also presents several critical issues and challenges to be addressed. Among these, we can mention the customs barriers that hinder the free exchange of goods, services and capital, in addition to local regulations and laws that vary significantly from one country to another. These differences can generate bureaucratic obstacles, slowing down or even stopping the operations and expansion of companies abroad. A significant risk, always linked to the internazionalization of companies, can derive from political instability, regulatory change and geopolitical conflicts. Small and medium-sized enterprises represent a pillar of the Italian business landscape. However, especially small business, for a series of known reasons, including the lack of specific training by company management, struggle on their own to interact with international demonstrate, through statistical data on exports and analysis of models of the internazionalization process, how, especially in the initial phase, it may be considered necessary for ICE Agency to support SMEs in improving corporate governance and facilitating entry into strategic and priority countries.

Keywords: Internationalization; SMEs; ICE

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Artificial Intelligence in Public Governance: Enhancing Efficiency, Trust, and Decision-Making

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The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into public governance represents a transformative shift in how governments manage resources, interact with citizens, and respond to complex societal challenges. This study provides a comprehensive review of academic research on the role of AI in public administration, focusing on its capacity to enhance administrative efficiency, transparency, and accountability. By employing the PRISMA protocol and conducting a bibliometric analysis with VOSviewer, the research identifies and examines 50 peer-reviewed articles published between 2005 and 2025 in reputable databases such as Scopus and Web of Science. The findings reveal that AI technologies are increasingly adopted to streamline bureaucratic procedures, optimize public service delivery, and support evidence-based policy-making. Three major areas of application emerge: (1) technological automation for improved operational efficiency; (2) data-driven decision support systems that enhance institutional responsiveness and citizen engagement; and (3) the use of machine learning and predictive analytics to manage public resources and anticipate future needs. These developments suggest that AI can significantly improve the performance of public sector institutions by reducing costs, accelerating administrative workflows, and enabling a more personalized and inclusive approach to service provision. This review contributes to the ongoing academic and policy debate by offering a conceptual synthesis of how AI is reshaping public sector practices. It argues for the development of interdisciplinary governance models that balance innovation with social equity and fundamental rights. In doing so, the paper provides actionable insights for policymakers, public managers, and researchers seeking to harness AI responsibly and effectively in the public sphere. Ultimately, the study underscores the need for a thoughtful integration of AI that upholds democratic values and inclusivity in the digital transformation of government.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence; Public governance; Public Sector, Systematic Literature Review

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Chaotic Heritage: AI, design and complexity in cultural tourism

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The tourism sector, in recent years, has been and continues to be strongly transformed by artificial intelligence (AI), contributing to the development of increasingly personalized, immersive and accessible experiences. In particular, in the context of cultural tourism, AI opens up new possibilities for the enhancement of heritage, interaction with cultural content and the management of tourist flows. The integration between these technologies and what a territory offers in terms of cultural heritage allows us to overcome the traditional fruition of places of art, giving rise to new models of storytelling, interpretation and visitor involvement.

As part of a critical reflection on the introduction of intelligent technologies in the contexts of cultural tourism, this work takes as its reference a dual methodological objective: on the one hand, to explore the potential and limits of artificial intelligence in the enhancement of cultural heritage; on the other, to analyze the concrete ways in which these technologies are articulated in local contexts, understood not only as physical places, but as socio-cultural systems with values, practices and representations.

The working hypothesis is that the effectiveness of smart technologies in cultural tourism is not intrinsic to digital tools per se, but depends substantially on the ways in which these technologies are incorporated into specific territorial contexts, that is, on the relationships that are established between digital infrastructures, local actors, forms of symbolic production and governance logics. Furthermore, if these technologies are adopted according to extractive logics, that is, detached from the local context and guided solely by metrics of efficiency, visibility or consumption, they risk contributing to the commodification of heritage, the oversimplification of cultural contents and the marginalization of local communities.

The research adopts a qualitative approach, based on an exploratory mapping of national and international case studies, integrated with interviews with stakeholders in the sector (cultural institutions, technology companies, tourism operators).

The results obtained return a complex and stratified scenario, which solicits plural readings and invites sensitive, critical and conscious planning.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Chaotic Design, Cultural Tourism

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Historic railways: development opportunities for Italian small towns

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Italian villages are at the center of a repeated interest by local and national institutions, which see in them new opportunities for development and growth in a sustainable way, and also for a tourism increasingly oriented towards the search for authentic experiences in unique places and minor sites. In Italy, there are more than 7,000 km of deactivated railway lines, many of which are in a state of abandonment: a heritage that includes continuous tracks that wind through the territory connecting cities, towns and rural villages. The tendency to prefer road transport to rail transport, in the movement of people and goods, has led to the suppression of dozens of minor railway lines. These are minor lines (mostly located in marginal areas of the country). In the last decade, awareness of the value of this heritage and the possibility of reusing it for tourism purposes has grown. In this perspective, disused railways are increasingly seen as a “resource”, capable of stimulating new forms of mobility and sustainable tourism and generating economic and social benefits for the territories crossed. An awareness that is confirmed by the legislative ferment of recent years around this topic. In this perspective, the contribution looks at the theme of historic railways as a tool for tourist mobility and for the development of sustainable tourism based on the valorization of territories, in relation to the strategies and development plans launched in the Italian panorama.

Keywords: Small villages, slow tourism, historic railways, greenways

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FINANCE SESSION



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The financial distress of Italian municipalities is an increasingly relevant phenomenon, with over 700 local authorities declared in default in recent decades. The geographical distribution highlights a strong imbalance between North and South, with approximately 80% of cases concentrated in the southern regions. The study aims to investigate the causes of the financial crisis of Italian communities, examine the relevant regulatory framework and evaluate the recovery strategies adopted, with a focus on the main legislative reforms aimed at re-establishing the financial balance of local authorities. The analysis is based on financial and administrative data relating to 48,996 observations on Italian communities collected over the last decade. Through a quantitative approach, predictive models were applied to identify the main risk factors associated with municipal default. The variables examined include the level of financial autonomy, the degree of indebtedness, the tax burden, the capacity for self-financing and public spending. The paper assesses the impact of budgetary rigidity and the constraints imposed by the Internal Stability Pact on the ability of local authorities to cope with financial crisis situations. The results of the analysis highlight that municipalities with a strong dependence on state transfers, a high level of indebtedness and ineffective governance are more exposed to the risk of default. The application of austerity measures and the imposition of more stringent budgetary constraints, in some cases, have further aggravated the financial difficulties of local authorities, limiting their capacity to invest in infrastructure and economic development. In particular, the reduction of current expenditure, if not accompanied by an adequate structural reform, has proven insufficient to ensure a lasting recovery, contributing instead to a further contraction of growth opportunities at the territorial level. From this perspective, the study highlights the need to rethink financial distress prevention strategies in municipalities, placing emphasis on strengthening preventive monitoring mechanisms, adopting advanced predictive tools based on artificial intelligence, and introducing financial early warning indicators to promptly identify risk situations. The adoption of these measures could promote more efficient management of public resources, prevent financial crises, and strengthen the resilience of local governance. This contribution offers valuable insights for academia in developing financial risk models and for policymakers in enhancing prevention and intervention strategies.

Keywords: Financial Distress, Local Governance, Financial Autonomy

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Education and Economic Stress among Students – Challenges and Recommendations for Educational Policies in Albania

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Today's society is living in a great momentum influenced by many factors, in this context, the individual faces many challenges, one of which is economic challenges. Students, caught in a conflict within themselves between personal growth and creating a sustainable future, face significant financial stress that directly impacts their motivation and academic performance. This study aims to analyze the impact of economic stress on the university experience of students in Albania, focusing on motivation, academic performance and psychological aspects stemming from financial challenges, and to propose recommendations for educational policies that can help improve support for them. The research is based on two main questions: (1) How does economic stress affect students' motivation and academic performance? and (2) What opportunities can be offered to support students and reduce economic stress? The study methodology combines qualitative and quantitative approaches. The qualitative analysis includes a literature review on theories of economic stress and education, as well as an assessment of existing data on the situation in Albania and the educational policies implemented so far. To support the quantitative analysis, a structured questionnaire was developed with students from various universities in Albania, collecting data on the main factors of economic stress, its effects on academic engagement, and opportunities for institutional support. The results show that most students experience significant levels of financial stress, and two of the main factors are a lack of financial support from family and limited scholarship opportunities. This study will contribute to the academic and institutional debate on the need for educational policies sensitive to students' economic challenges, which aim to minimize the impact of economic stress and improve their academic experience.

Keywords: Economic Stress, Academic Performance, Student Motivation, Student Employment, Educational Policy, Financial Support.

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From EU Cohesion Policy to Sustainable Development: Resource Mapping Based on a Reclassification of Thematic Objectives

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The primary data sources for analyzing public sector investment expenditure including ISTAT's public administration accounts, the State Accounting Office's (RGS) regionalized expenditure data, and the Territorial Public Accounts' (CPT) consolidated expenditure are fundamental for reconstructing and evaluating spending policies aimed at promoting territorial development. However, these datasets lack effective harmonization with the objectives and policies introduced at the European, national, and regional levels under the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

This study proposes a reclassification of projects funded by European (and potentially national) cohesion funds, reorganizing their Thematic Objectives to align with the Sustainable Development Strategy's thematic framework. We then present a quantitative analysis to map, at the provincial level in Piedmont, the distribution of allocated resources versus actual expenditures. This comparison contrasts our novel classification with the traditional Thematic Objectives framework used for European and national cohesion funds.

The proposed reclassification could enhance the analysis of alignment between cohesion policies and the programmatic priorities of individual Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By assessing the relationship between allocated resources and the implementation of identified needs at the provincial level in Piedmont, this approach offers a tool to evaluate policy coherence and operational effectiveness in achieving sustainable development targets.

Keywords: EU Cohesion Policy, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Resource Mapping, Public Investment Expenditure, Thematic Objectives Reclassification

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SECTORAL ANALYSIS SUPPORTED BY CPT DATA: THE WATER SECTOR

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The unprecedented drought that has hit Italy, starting from the first half of 2022, has brought back to public attention the urgency of preserving water resources and ensuring their correct management and distribution, in order to protect the stability and security of each Nation. The issue can no longer be ignored. This paper aims to frame the issue, identifying the sector regulation, governance and relevant stakeholders, both in terms of organizational structure and expenditure. In this context, the Regional Public Accounts System (CPT) constitutes a solid tool for the territorial distribution of public financial flows, ensuring, even in terms of sectors, the reconstruction of Consolidated Accounts of the entire Extended Public Sector at regional level with characteristics of completeness, quality, flexibility, reliability and comparability. The CPT data were then used to analyse the spending trends in “water services sector” at a regional level and to identify possible correlations between spending and “physical” indicators, with the aim of arriving at an initial assessment of the effectiveness of public action in recent years. The results seem to indicate that spending, whether current or capital, is, to a more or less significant extent, associated with the improvement of some physical indicators, in particular relating to water quality, water losses from the network and regularity in water supply. The analysis carried out here clearly highlights the usefulness of making more micro-level comparisons between different territories, using the CPT System network, to empirically test the validity of hypotheses derived from macro-level evidence, as well as to assess how service management methods affect its efficiency. This would also allow for the identification and sharing of best practices.

Keywords: Water, CPT, Public Action, Regional

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The impacts of the ESG transition on the economic-financial system of Calabria: critical issues, resources and prospects for sustainable development

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The growing attention towards ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) criteria is profoundly transforming the models of economic and financial development in Europe, raising significant questions about the ability of the most structurally fragile regions, such as Calabria, to effectively implement and adapt these principles. In this context, the study proposes a qualitative and interdisciplinary analysis that combines the examination of the most recent scientific literature with the observation of local practices, in order to understand how the ESG transition is influencing the Calabrian economic-financial fabric. Through documentary research on Scopus and a review of institutional and operational sources, the study investigates the levels of awareness and application of ESG standards by regional businesses and financial institutions, with particular attention to Cooperative Credit Banks. The results highlight a growing scientific interest on the topic, but also the presence of significant obstacles in the Calabrian context, linked to the scarcity of resources, entrepreneurial fragmentation and the digital divide. At the same time, positive signs emerge in terms of local initiatives, financial support tools and openings towards the adoption of sustainable practices. The theoretical implications of the work concern the rethinking of the concept of sustainability in peripheral territories, while the practical ones underline the need to build a collaborative ecosystem capable of accompanying companies and institutions on a path of real transformation. Finally, future directions are suggested aimed at creating regional networks for sustainable innovation, strengthening financial education and activating specific policies for disadvantaged areas. The study is therefore proposed as a contribution to the debate on the role of ESG transitions in territorial development and to the reflection on how to combine sustainability and social cohesion in marginal contexts.

Keywords: ESG transition, Sustainable territorial development, Regional economy

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Data and tools to support regional planning

The experience of the Umbria Region

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Having adequate indicators helps to identify political priorities in a precise manner and improve decision-making processes. The Umbria Region develops various data analysis tools in order to support regional planning, useful for reporting current trends, strengths and critical issues on which to orient regional planning. The common feature of the reports developed is that of analyzing the position of the Umbria Region over time and comparing it with that of Italy and other Regions. Among these: The Regional Scoreboard of Ecological Transition, Digitalization and Innovation in Umbria: a tool that aims to provide an analysis of the fundamental elements that characterize innovation, the development of digital technologies and sustainable development. It is a composite index built using 48 key indicators, divided into 3 large thematic areas (digital transition, ecological transition, innovation) and 14 areas of intervention. For each indicator, with a graphic representation of the competitive positioning of Umbria compared to other Italian regions for each indicator. The Multidimensional Indicator of Innovation, Development and Social Cohesion: a tool that aims to evaluate the progress of the regional reality from an economic point of view, with respect to the level of innovation, development and social cohesion of Umbria. Therefore, the traditional economic indicators (first of all the GDP) have been integrated with measures on the quality of people's life and on the environment, on the state of health, on education and training, on the Labor market, on innovation, etc. The indicator is the result of 53 indicators divided into 8 areas of investigation (Productive Economic System, Labor Market, Environment, Social Cohesion and Security, Education and Training, Innovation and Research, Health and Healthcare, Territorial Public Accounts). The Dashboard of indicators of the Territorial Public Accounts System (CPT): a tool that, starting from the elementary data of the open data of the CPT system (released in open format by the Department for Cohesion Policies and for the South), provides a set of 52 indicators suitable for a territorial analysis of revenues and expenditures aimed at analyzing the economic-financial performance of the regional Enlarged Public Sector, in comparison with the national data and that of the reference breakdown.

Keywords: Data Indicators Regional Planning Statistics Evaluation

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P.O.R. Calabria 2014-2020: successes, challenges, opportunities

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The Calabria Regional Operational Program 2014–2020 represented one of the main public investment tools to promote economic growth, social cohesion and environmental sustainability in one of the most fragile regions in Europe. Co-financed by ERDF and ESF funds, the program has mobilized over 2.3 billion euros across 11 priority axes, addressing structural critical issues such as youth unemployment, low competitiveness of the production system, infrastructural weakness and administrative inefficiency. This study aims to critically analyze the implementation of the POR, with the aim of evaluating its effectiveness, identifying the main management critical issues and formulating operational proposals for the new 2021–2027 programming. The analysis develops around a central question: to what extent has the program contributed to the improvement of the economic and social conditions of Calabria, and how can it be managed more effectively in the future? The methodology adopted combines the examination of official regional documents, expenditure data and output indicators, with a qualitative interpretation of the critical issues that emerged, in light of the territorial context. The results show overall positive financial progress, but at the same time highlight fragilities in the ability to generate lasting impacts. The main critical issues encountered concern the fragmentation of the interventions, the slowness of the implementation processes and the weakness of the evaluation of the effects. The work suggests the urgency of strengthening administrative capacity, simplifying procedures, concentrating resources on strategic priorities and developing more integrated and results-oriented governance. The lessons learned from the 2014–2020 cycle represent an essential basis for building a more effective cohesion policy, capable of accompanying Calabria on a path of fair, resilient and sustainable development.

Keywords: Successes, Challenges, Opportunities

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Credit and inequalities in Calabria: low incomes and financial access

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This study critically analyzes the relationship between low wage levels and access to credit in Calabria region, highlighting the structural implications that this connection determines on an economic, social and political level. In a territory historically marked by profound disparities compared to the national average, the interaction between insufficient incomes and financing difficulties produces effects that go beyond the mere individual financial dimension, influencing social mobility, territorial cohesion and the stability of the local production system. The analysis was developed through a quantitative methodology, based on official data from institutional sources such as the Bank of Italy, ISTAT, INPS, ABI and MEF. The collection and processing of data were aimed at exploring three main directions: the measurement of the use of credit by Calabrian families, the comparative analysis of salary levels and the verification of the correlation between low income and use of credit for essential consumption. The results show that the weakness of disposable income severely limits both the ability to save and access to credit, fueling a phenomenon of financial exclusion that penalizes the most fragile segments of the population. The lack of possibility to resort to formal financing instruments pushes some families towards informal or even illegal channels, worsening the conditions of economic vulnerability. Significant consequences arise from this: slowdown in internal demand, increase in inequalities, youth emigration, weakening of social networks and growing disillusionment with institutions. The implications that emerged indicate the need for an integrated approach, which combines the strengthening of the employment structure with financial inclusion measures, microcredit tools and economic education courses. Only a coordinated and structural strategy will be able to break the link between income poverty and exclusion from credit, giving Calabria back a prospect of sustainable, fair and lasting development.

Keywords: Low Incomes, Consumer Credit, Financial Exclusion

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Digitalization and Territorial Inequalities: The Impact of Public Funding on the Economic Growth of Italian Municipalities

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In recent decades, digitalisation has represented a key element of economic and social transformation, introducing new opportunities to improve production efficiency and competitiveness. However, the impact of digitalisation is not uniform and raises questions about its ability to reduce economic and territorial inequalities. This study examines the relationship between public funding for digitalisation and local economic growth in Italian municipalities, paying particular attention to the distribution of resources and their effective ability to stimulate economic development. In particular, the research aims to answer the following question: does funding for digitalisation contribute to reducing territorial inequalities or does it tend to strengthen pre-existing disparities? To answer this question, the study adopts a quantitative approach based on a statistical analysis conducted on a dataset relating to Italian municipalities. The variables analyzed include funding received for digitalisation, municipal economic revenues and control factors such as the resident population and the degree of financial autonomy. The analysis employs statistical techniques such as ANOVA tests, multiple linear regression and visual representations to evaluate the distribution of funds and their impact on economic growth. The results highlight a highly uneven distribution of funding between municipalities, with a concentration of resources in some areas to the detriment of others and the regression shows that, although funding for digitalisation has a positive impact on municipal revenues, their effect is conditioned by the demographic size and local financial autonomy, suggesting that larger entities with greater resources benefit more from digital investments. These findings raise important implications for public policy. The lack of homogeneity in the distribution of funding suggests the need for fairer allocation criteria, which consider not only the population, but also indicators of economic and digital vulnerability. Furthermore, the effectiveness of digitalisation does not depend exclusively on the availability of economic resources, but also on the existence of adequate digital skills and administrative capabilities, highlighting the importance of training and skills development programmes. Future research could explore the link between digitalization and economic development through longitudinal studies and more detailed analyzes of different types of digital investments. In conclusion, the study highlights how digitalisation can represent an opportunity for growth, but that its effectiveness strongly depends on funding distribution policies and local implementation capabilities, requiring a more targeted approach to ensure fair and inclusive development.

Keywords: Digitization; Territorial inequalities; Public funding

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Public Budget and Fiscal Sustainability in Calabria: A Quantitative Analysis for Regional Planning

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In recent years, the management of public resources has acquired a central role in economic and social policies, requiring careful evaluation of the efficiency and transparency of the public budget. This study analyzes the evolution of public revenues in the Calabria Region between 2020 and 2023, adopting a multiple linear regression model to examine the relationship between revenues, expenses and type of administrative entity. The analysis is based on data from the Territorial Public Accounts (CPT), an official source that provides detailed information on regional financial dynamics. The developed model considers the reference year, the type of administrative entity and total expenses as explanatory variables of public revenue. The results show that time has a significant impact on revenue growth, suggesting a positive trend over the analyzed period. Furthermore, Central Administrations appear to be the administrative category with the most significant contribution to public revenue, while Local Administrations and Public Enterprises have a lower impact. The analysis highlights a positive correlation between public expenditure and revenue, indicating that an increase in spending can be associated with a greater capacity to generate revenue. This aspect raises questions of financial sustainability and suggests the need for strategic management of resources to ensure a balanced budget. The inclusion of an interaction term between year and administrative type made it possible to identify significant variations in the financial management of the different institutions over time, reflecting the influence of economic and institutional policies. The implications of this study are relevant for regional public policy planning, providing analytical tools to improve financial management and transparency. The possibility of using predictive models to estimate the evolution of revenues can support more effective economic planning, allowing for an optimal allocation of public resources. Furthermore, the findings suggest that targeted fiscal policies and greater digitalisation of public administration could help strengthen revenue collection capacity and improve the quality of public services. In conclusion, the research confirms the importance of adopting advanced analytical approaches to understand and optimize the management of public resources. The case of the Calabria Region offers a concrete example of how the combination of quantitative data and econometric models can contribute to greater transparency and accountability in public financial management.

Keywords: Public Administration, Public Budget, Analysis

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WOMEN: FINANCE AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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The woman-finance relationship, historically quite complex, is today in continuous evolution, beyond all expectations. However, the path towards achieving full gender equality is still quite long. The financial sector, historically dominated by the male gender, is positively opening up to the presence of women; in fact, although they are still few, women play a central role in the economic and financial landscape. The gap in women's participation in the financial system is dependent on various factors, namely social, environmental, cultural, and political. The contribution that women can make to the financial sector is significant, thanks to diverse thinking and the ability to tackle challenges differently, with a more inclusive logic, as well as the capacity to manage the risks inherent in the choices to be made while minimizing risk, and the ability to promote inclusive leadership models. However, the central aspect on which this research is based is the growing attention to the theme of sustainability. In this sense, women contribute to accelerating and transforming the development of a sustainable and circular economy. Women have a winning approach in the financial world, demonstrating greater sensitivity in investment choices, aiming to achieve social and environmental well-being while balancing profits and welfare. Certainly, there are critical issues, particularly regarding the state of inequality that women face, linked to gender stereotypes rooted in ancestral prejudices and also in terms of wage disparities. Thus, "Women and sustainable finance" represents a winning combination. The hope is that it can be realized through the implementation of a true "financial education" and full involvement of institutions and operators, promoting a culture of sustainable and responsible investments in a market that gives the right importance to the environmental and social impacts of investment and savings products. Sustainable finance can play a crucial role in reducing disparities within the sector, promoting the current and future development of the financial market.

Keywords: Sustainability, Women, Finance, Gender Equality

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ANALYSIS OF ATTRACTIVENESS IN PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

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“And you, Checco, what do you want to do when you grow up? I want to have a permanent job, like you!” (from the film “Quo Vado”).

Public employment, which since the 1980s has been the highest aspiration for those who aspired to a secure, well-paid job far from the uncertainty of self-employment, is now in sharp decline. This study aims to analyze the issue of the reduced attractiveness of public employment, highlighted by the decline in applications recorded over the last 10 years. This is what emerges from the latest FLP (Federazione Lavoratori Pubblici e Funzione Pubbliche) survey on Eurostat and Istat data.

In particular, the research shows that in the two-year period 2021-22, 395 exam sessions were opened, attracting 1.6 million applications with the effective participation of 620 thousand people. Numbers that seem high but which in reality must be placed in a context of declining participation.

Over the last two decades, the average age of entry into public employment has increased from 29.3 to 34.3 years and continues to increase, as confirmed by ISTAT data. Public employees under thirty are 4.8% and are reduced to 3.6% only among permanent staff.

The causes are multiple: uncompetitive salaries, rigidity of the system, bureaucratic complexity and poor digitalization.

To reverse the trend, it is necessary to invest in:

- **Renewal:** simplification of competitions, digitalization of processes and valorization of merit
- **Competitiveness:** adjustment of salaries to the private sector and offer of career opportunities; salaries of the Italian PA stop at one thousand euros below the EU average.
- **Well-being:** promotion of smart working and an inclusive work environment.

The goal that the Public Administration must set itself is to become a modern and dynamic employer, capable of attracting the talent necessary to face the challenges of the future.

The message that must be conveyed by the PA to candidates, in order to effectively structure its employer branding strategy, is the opportunity, for everyone, to actively contribute to generating a contribution of value for their country and their community.

Key Words: public employment - attractiveness

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Analyzing Municipal Sustainability with CPT Data: the case of Basilicata Region

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The system of Territorial Public Accounts (CPT), developed and managed by the Department for Cohesion Policies and for the South of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, is an important source of information for the analysis of public spending. Thanks to the sectoral classification and the harmonization of budget data, the CPT allow a detailed analysis of the spending behavior of entities belonging to the Broader Public Sector (SPA), including local authorities, making it possible to compare territories, monitor policies and develop evaluation tools based on official and consolidated data. However, their potential for measuring local sustainability remains underexploited when considering the growing attention to public sector sustainability reporting and the key role of local authorities in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda. This paper presents a methodology applied to the 131 municipalities of Basilicata that aims to connect the monetary data of the CPTs of the Basilicata Region with the sustainability dimensions outlined by the 2030 Agenda. The methodology involves the structuring of a connection matrix between the CPT expenditure items, reclassified by sector and divided on the basis of the budget programs (Legislative Decree 118/2011); the sustainability indicators defined by international standards and reference organizations, which allow the connection with the SDGs; the statistical variables available at the municipal level, aimed at defining indicators that reflect the sustainability of expenditure flows. The selection of sustainability indicators and statistical variables was guided by their coherence with the SDGs and limited by the availability of data at the municipal level. The main result of this work is the construction of a database for the Lucanian municipalities that enables two important analysis paths: 1) the identification of the relationship between the trend of local public spending (deriving from the CPT of the Basilicata Region) and the dynamics of sustainability indicators identified in the literature; 2) the identification and measurement of indicators that reflect the sustainability of spending flows. Framed in a broader research project, this preparatory work aims to provide local administrations with a crucial tool to improve their accountability and orient planning towards sustainability objectives. The constructed database represents the basis for the development of a longitudinal monitoring and evaluation system of the impact of local policies on the different pillars of sustainability, supporting the future drafting of sustainability reports.

Keywords: Territorial Public Accounts (CPT); Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Sustainability Indicators

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The Valuation of Fixed Assets according to ITAS 4 in Italian Local Governments

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In the transition from the financial accounting currently used by local authorities to the accrual accounting foreseen by reform 1.15 of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, particular attention is paid to the valuation of tangible fixed assets. Currently, fixed asset data among the various public administrations are recorded differently: the majority adopts the financial system, while others have already implemented an accrual system (for example, local health authorities and universities). The different processes and criteria adopted for their recognition and valuation result in fragmented and unreliable data, leading to unrepresentative accounting. There is a lack of uniformity in criteria for constructing financial statements, which will make administrations more aware of their public assets. Therefore, the need to standardise data has emerged to facilitate the initial recognition process through collecting inventory information that will facilitate the comparison and aggregation of data at the national level. The accounting standard dealing with tangible fixed assets is Itas 4. It established the accounting treatment concerning initial recognition, determination of book value, depreciation, and impairment losses. It distinguishes fixed assets into state-owned assets, non-disposable assets and disposable assets. For an asset to be recognised in the accounts, it must meet the definition of an asset: "A resource currently controlled by a government as a result of a past transaction or other event" (Itas Conceptual Framework, para. 3.4). The term control refers to the government's ability to use the resource (or to indicate its use by third parties) in such a way as to enjoy the service potential or economic benefits derived from it. A resource is an asset with service potential or the ability to generate economic benefits (Itas Conceptual Framework para. 3.5). Starting with proper accounting can optimise resources, promote more responsible management and monitor compliance with asset valorisation objectives.

Keywords: Accrual, Fixed Asset, Itas 4

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Local Demographic Projections: Tackling Challenges of a Heterogeneous Territory

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Having comprehensive and reliable population forecasts that are easily accessible and continuously updated is undoubtedly of great importance in the public administration sector. This work presents the model, currently under active development, for sex- and age-specific population projections for the Liguria Region, from which municipal-level data and district-level for the City of Genova can be derived through disaggregation. These forecasts are generated using two different methods: a deterministic one, which adapts—with appropriate adjustments—the methodology underpinning the demographic projections released by Istat (though stripped of the expert-based stochastic component); and a Bayesian model, which employs the methodology applied in the United Nations' World Population Prospects and implemented in the R package bayesPop. The aims of the research are twofold: firstly, to calibrate the projections according to the unique characteristics of the Ligurian territory by defining a sub-provincial stratification; secondly, to provide precise information on the uncertainty associated with the forecasts, both probabilistically and through the definition of scenarios.

Key Words: Demography, Projections, Bayesian, Population, Municipal Stratification

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Roots tourism and economic development in Italy: new trajectories between identity, experience and territory

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In recent years, the Italian tourism industry has experienced a profound transformation, influenced by demographic, socioeconomic and cultural changes that have redefined the very concept of travel. In a context in which demand is increasingly oriented towards authentic, personalized and identifying experiences, roots tourism emerges as one of the most significant innovations. Aimed at Italians abroad and their descendants, this phenomenon is based on the rediscovery of one's family origins, offering an emotional and cultural experience that stands out from traditional tourism models.

The present study adopts a multidisciplinary and triangulated approach, combining the analysis of ISTAT statistical data on tourist flows between 2008 and 2023 with a critical review of the scientific literature and the examination of Italian public policies, in particular of the "Turismo delle Radici" project. The research question guides the investigation towards understanding how Italian tourism has evolved to respond to the new needs of contemporary travellers, and what strategic role roots tourism can take on in this transformation.

The results highlight the resilience of holiday tourism, the increase in interest in cultural activities and the growing importance of well-being as a lever of choice. Furthermore, the data shows a strengthening of domestic tourism, a segmentation of demand by age, duration and motivations, and a potential increase in practices linked to family roots, especially in medium-long stays.

From a practical point of view, the implications concern the need to digitize archives, train operators, build coherent territorial narratives and enhance internal areas as meaningful destinations. Theoretically, roots tourism is configured as a transformative and relational practice, which redefines travel as a tool for building identity and connecting the past and present.

The work proposes to consider roots tourism not as a marginal segment, but as a strategic lever for innovation in the sector, capable of generating economic, cultural and social value in a widespread and sustainable way. In a phase of global rethinking of tourism, this perspective proves to be particularly fertile for a country like Italy, historically linked to migratory phenomena and endowed with a widespread and deeply identifying heritage.

Keywords: Roots tourism, identity experience, tourist innovation

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Multi-level governance in territorial welfare policies and collaborative relations between public administrations and third sector organisations: co-programming and co-designing.

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In recent years, there seems to have been a significant period of reorganization in the relationships between public administrations and third-sector organizations. Indeed, many public administrations have begun to pay increasing attention to the potential of using the instruments of co-programming and co-design as tools for multi-level governance in territorial welfare policies and actions. The two instruments have different functions but are closely related to each other. While co-design involves the development of specific projects by multiple actors who interact according to a logic of shared resources and goals, co-programming, on the other hand, concerns the same logic but focuses on the sharing of policies (and related programs). What links the two tools is, without a doubt, a new way of conceiving the relationship between public entities and civil society organizations, centered on collaboration and the search for a new operational model of sharing and interaction between the various actors involved. This contribution, with the ambitious goal of examining the different scenarios related to the comparison between the competitive and collaborative paradigms in the relationships between public administrations and third-sector entities, is structured along two main directions. The first part will be dedicated to the regulatory analysis of the two collaborative instruments, co-programming and co-design, as tools for the shared management of local social services. The second part will focus on analyzing the dynamics underlying the collaborative relationships between public administrations and third-sector organizations, which are caught in a constant tension between collaboration and competition, before moving on to a reflection on the potential of co-programming as a true tool for shared planning of territorial welfare policies.

Keywords: Public administrations, Third sector, Co-programming, Co-designing, Welfare, Governance

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Behavioral Reactions to Market Uncertainty in Cryptocurrency Investment: Evidence from Fund Flows and Price Volatility

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Cryptocurrencies have gained increasing relevance in investors' portfolios while retaining unique characteristics such as extreme volatility, the absence of traditional fundamentals, and strong media influence. This study investigates the behavioral dynamics that shape investment decisions in cryptocurrencies, with particular focus on the role of cognitive biases in managing uncertainty. Adopting a quantitative approach, the analysis centers on capital flows, price volatility, and trading volumes, aiming to identify patterns consistent with herding behavior, loss aversion, and overconfidence. Using high-frequency data on Bitcoin, Ethereum, and a selected basket of altcoins (2019–2024), the study implements panel econometric models and VAR frameworks to examine the responsiveness of net flows and prices to informational shocks and exogenous events (such as exchange collapses, regulatory announcements, and statements by influential figures). The results indicate that during periods of heightened market turbulence, investor reactions are more intense and synchronized compared to traditional markets, suggesting dynamics of panic selling and herd behavior. Moreover, during prolonged bull phases, evidence of excessive confidence in trend continuation emerges, reflected in anomalous increases in trading volumes and a decline in diversification metrics. This study provides empirical evidence that investment decisions in crypto assets are not primarily driven by rational logic, but by psychological and social mechanisms that amplify market cyclicity. The findings have significant implications for regulators, issuers of crypto-financial products, and institutional investors, highlighting the need for behavioral-based predictive models to manage systemic risk in decentralized and hyper-mediated environments.

Keywords: Cryptocurrencies; Behavioral Finance; Investor Biases; Herding Behavior; Market Volatility

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ESG and Green Debt: Sustainability or Illusion?

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In response to the recent challenges of climate change, energy efficiency and biodiversity loss, more than 120 countries around the world are adopting policies to reduce their carbon emissions. This study investigates the relationship between carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and corporate debt dynamics in energy-intensive sectors, with a specific focus on the role of ESG scores as proxies for environmental sustainability. Based on a panel dataset of 545 listed companies from 27 European Union countries during the period 2020–2023, the paper applies a panel data regression model to examine whether higher carbon emissions are associated with increased leverage, and to assess the reliability of ESG scores in reflecting actual environmental impact. Results show a statistically significant positive relationship between CO₂ emissions and total corporate debt, suggesting that firms with heavier environmental footprints may rely more on debt financing to manage costs associated with carbon-intensive activities and compliance with regulatory requirements. Interestingly, ESG scores also show a positive correlation with debt levels, indicating that firms with higher sustainability ratings might be using external capital to fund environmental, social, and governance initiatives. However, a critical insight emerges when firms are categorized based on ESG scores: those with higher ESG ratings surprisingly exhibit greater CO₂ emissions on average. This paradox suggests potential limitations in ESG metrics, particularly in the environmental (E) dimension, and raises concerns about their capacity to accurately reflect firms' ecological performance. These findings contribute to the ongoing academic and policy debate on the credibility of ESG disclosures and the effectiveness of sustainability ratings in guiding investment decisions. They also underscore the need for a re-evaluation of ESG methodologies to ensure that high scores truly reflect superior environmental stewardship. The paper offers valuable implications for regulators, investors, and corporate decision-makers aiming to harmonize financial and environmental objectives in the transition toward a low-carbon economy.

Keywords: CO₂ emissions; ESG scores; energy-intensive companies; debt dynamics; carbon pricing; sustainability.

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Introduction Criminal Law in the European Union

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We have addressed this topic because it is current and has a very important impact on Albanian society. This publication aims to help researchers and law enforcement. One of the basic conditions for opening negotiations with Albania for its membership in the European Union is the adaptation of domestic legislation to the legal framework of the European Union, based on the *acquis Communautaire* principle. The rule of law is achieved through clear legislation, without gaps where there can be no abuses by the judicial system. The rule of law guarantees the implementation of the law through a functional and professional judicial system, based on the legal framework of the European Union, the Constitution of the Republic of Albania and the laws of our country. Albanian society has suffered for several decades from a judicial system that has biased in favor of the stronger subject, leaving the weaker subject without legal protection. The failure of the judicial system to protect the interests of citizens in a balanced relationship with the interests of the state and local government has reduced the possibility of economic development of our country. The lack of security of judicial procedures has driven many serious foreign entrepreneurs away from our country. They have not had the security of law enforcement by the judicial system of our country. It is hoped that Albanian judicial procedures will be approximated according to the laws of other European Union countries, based on the principle of *Acquis Communautaire*. In this way, the number of cases in the courts would decrease and judicial decisions would be completed within reasonable deadlines, based on Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The parties, including the administration, would have fewer conflicts.

The rule of law would guarantee access for the public and lawyers and mediators to Albanian courts.

The role of the mediator is also important in the criminal field.

Keywords: Law, EU, Human rights, Constitution

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Waiting Lists in the National Health Service: Focus on Calabria and Interregional Comparison-A Financial Analysis too

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Waiting lists for healthcare services are a critical issue in the organization of the Italian healthcare system, with significant impacts on service quality, access to care, and financial sustainability. The Calabria Region, like many other southern Italian regions, faces major challenges not only in terms of waiting times for specialist visits and diagnostic tests but also in the efficient allocation and management of healthcare funds. This study analyzes the current situation in Calabria, compares it with other Italian regions, and highlights the economic costs of inefficiencies. Targeted solutions—including performance-based financing—are proposed to improve service efficiency and equity, in line with the Essential Levels of Care (LEA).

Keywords: Waiting lists, Financial analysis, healthcare efficiency

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION SESSION



CULTURAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS AGING AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY IN ALBANIA

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This paper examines the convergence of cultural perspectives on aging and sustainability practices in Albania, a country experiencing considerable demographic and ecological changes. As Albania confronts an aging populace alongside escalating environmental issues, it becomes essential to comprehend how cultural views on aging affect sustainable actions. Traditional Albanian principles, which are firmly based on familial unity and respect for senior members of society, frequently diverge from contemporary sustainability frameworks that prioritize resource preservation and ecological responsibility. By employing qualitative analysis and ethnographic methods, this paper analyzes the societal perceptions of aging populations in Albania and the impact of these views on community participation in sustainable initiatives. The qualitative findings indicate that, although older generations are typically regarded as guardians of established knowledge, their potential contributions to sustainability are not fully harnessed. This study emphasizes the opportunity to incorporate intergenerational strategies to promote sustainable development, utilizing the cultural promotion for seniors to enhance environmental efforts. By merging cultural attitudes regarding aging with sustainability objectives, this research provides valuable insights into inclusive and culturally relevant policies for tackling Albania's intertwined challenges of demographic change and environmental sustainability.

Keywords: Aging, Cultural Perspective, Sustainable Society, Attitudes, Ethnosociology

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Diplomatic Immunity and Employment Disputes: The Case of Hajrie Nuraj vs Albania and the Limits of Legal Protection for Local Staff

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Abstract Diplomatic immunity, enshrined in customary international law and codified under the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (“VCDR”), was established to facilitate diplomatic relations by protecting diplomatic agents and missions from the jurisdiction of host states. While this immunity is essential for safeguarding international diplomacy, it can have unintended and harmful consequences particularly in labor relations. One of the most pressing legal and human rights challenges arising from the doctrine of diplomatic immunity concerns the treatment of local staff employed by foreign embassies, consulates, and international organizations. These local employees, who are typically citizens or residents of the host country, are often excluded from legal protections afforded to other workers due to the invocation of diplomatic or state immunity. This results in a legal vacuum, where discriminatory practices and violations of labor rights may occur without any meaningful avenue for redress. This paper investigates the legal and human dimensions of discrimination against local staff employed by diplomatic missions, with a particular focus on the landmark case of Hajrie Nuraj v. Albania. Through this case, the paper examines how the principles of state and diplomatic immunity have been applied to shield diplomatic employers from accountability in employment disputes, and how such applications of immunity effectively perpetuate systemic discrimination against local staff. The analysis explores both the legal doctrine and the practical consequences, situating the Nuraj case within broader national and international legal debates concerning access to justice, equality before the law, and the right to fair treatment in the workplace. Hajrie Nuraj, an Albanian national, was employed by the Embassy of Kuwait in Tirana. After several years of service, her employment was terminated under disputed circumstances, which she believed were unlawful and discriminatory. She brought a claim before the Albanian courts, arguing that her dismissal was arbitrary and violated national labor laws. However, the Embassy of Kuwait invoked state immunity, arguing that the Albanian courts lacked jurisdiction to hear the case. Initially, the Tirana District Court rejected this claim of immunity and allowed the case to proceed. Yet, on appeal, Albania’s Supreme Court reversed the decision, citing state immunity as grounds for dismissing the lawsuit. Faced with no viable legal remedy within the Albanian judicial system, Nuraj appealed to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), alleging that Albania had violated her right of access to a court under Article 6(1) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Keywords: International law, Diplomatic immunity, Employment disputes, Labor rights, Local staff.

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The legacy of Virtue Ethics. Cooperation between Human Flourishing and Capabilities

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The paper looks at the phaenoma of development and cooperation in relation to the notions of capabilities and human flourishing through the lens of philosophy. Starting from this topic and engaging in close dialogue with social science research, the main question of the paper is: how can philosophical studies contribute to a richer and more relational conception of the contemporary human being? Within this debate, Virtue Ethics provide a fertile ground for rehabilitating untimely anthropological paradigms such as those of ancient, medieval, and early modern thought which – by emphasizing virtue and “eudaimonia” (happiness), key elements of flourishing – conceive of the human being as inherently complex and relational, capable of reciprocity and cooperation. This approach enables the rehabilitation of these paradigms and it may constitute a valuable strategy for integrating philosophical inquiry into the social sciences and reading contemporary phenomena. If, according to Amartya Sen’s perspective of “capability approach”, socio-economic development and related policies depend on a conceptual rearticulation of the human being, then this study enables to highlight how philosophy can help social sciences to question contemporary models of rationality through the retrieval of alternative and untimely framework. So, this process enables a critical reconfiguration of conceptual premises, potentially informing future policy design.

Keywords: Human Flourishing - Virtue Ethics - Untimely Rationalities - Cooperation - Capability Approach

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Geopolitics and colonialism: the different forms of influence on tourism

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It is known that tourism generates economy, and as is often repeated, this economy has many sectoral interconnections.

Geopolitics and tourist flows

Political decisions, international crises, and diplomatic relations influence the mobility of tourists and the choice of destinations. For example, Timothy (2017) analyzes the impact of geopolitics in the Gulf countries, highlighting how conflicts and tensions can both hinder and stimulate tourism, depending on the strategies adopted by local governments. Similarly, Webster and Ivanov (2015) discuss the "geopolitical drivers" that will shape future tourist flows, such as new global alliances or travel restrictions related to security.

The geopolitical vulnerability of a nation that significantly exposes itself to the tourist market should not be underestimated, especially following the progressive extension of the use of terrorist actions by international organizations or even isolated groups of people.

This is an important element to define, because through these interdependencies a decline in tourism would imply potential losses for sectors other than tourism itself, affecting the entire supply chain.

Among the interconnections we will examine Colonialism and its Legacies in Tourism Colonialism has left a persistent imprint on tourist destinations, especially in countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. Post-colonial power structures and historical narratives continue to shape the way in which colonized countries are represented and experienced by tourists. In Tucker (2019), it is discussed how colonial aesthetics and "authentic" experiences are often promoted to attract tourists, perpetuating stereotypical and neocolonial visions, however colonialism is not only that derived from the past, but today we are witnessing new forms of colonialism: IT and AI

Digital colonialism has a significant impact on the conveyance of information, true or false, that influence the decisions of digital tourists.

Many of these choices rely on reviews and visibility on online platforms as a way to attract visitors and as a booking system for tours and excursions.

These platforms, while offering great exposure, can heavily influence the reputation of an attraction with their review system aimed at collecting commissions for bookings of accommodations, travel and tourism-related services.

Keywords: Geopolitics, Colonialism, Tourism, IT, AI, Related Services

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The Process Of Building A Professional Identity In Education Students During Their Teaching Practice

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Professional identity refers to the process through which individuals envision and shape themselves in the role of a professional, integrating the values, attitudes, knowledge, and behaviors tied to their field. For students in the Faculty of Education, this concept reflects the journey of developing a sense of self as future educators. This involves reflecting on their educational experiences, interactions with students, peers, and mentors, and adopting the ethical and professional standards of teaching. Building a professional identity is a vital aspect of their career readiness and directly influences the quality of education they will provide. This article seeks to examine how practical teaching experiences shape the development of students' professional identity, with an emphasis on the psychological elements that influence both personal and professional growth. The main goals are to identify key psychological contributors during practical training, assess how both supportive and difficult experiences impact identity formation, and explore the link between emotional responsiveness and professional self-confidence. This study takes a psychological perspective by merging first-hand data from education students engaged in teaching practice with a theoretical framework derived from secondary sources. By combining these elements, the article aims to offer deeper insights into the dynamics of professional identity formation and to enhance the academic and emotional support systems available to student-teachers as they progress in their professional journey.

Keywords: student, professional identity, practice, teacher

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The philosophy of policy and politics

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The philosophy of the 19th century marks a pivotal turning point in the evolution of Western thought, where various doctrines such as positivism emerged in response to significant social, political, and scientific transformations. In this period, the sovereignty of reason became the leading principle not only within philosophy but also in the shaping of public policies and new structures of power. The demand for a rational social order did not remain merely a philosophical ideal; rather, it transformed into a political objective, where revolution and social reforms were driven by the ideal of “making the world rational.” Modern philosophy turned into a critical examination of the very foundations of political authority and public policy. On one hand, human reason was regarded as the emancipatory engine that should guide institutional development and the drafting of policies aimed at improving societal conditions. On the other hand, 20th-century philosophers such as Richard Rorty highlighted the profound dangers of an essentialist and absolutist approach to mind and rationality. Rorty and anti-essentialist movements argued that any attempt to build universal policies based on an immutable human essence was destined either to fail or to produce new forms of structural domination with negative social consequences. Thus, in the field of policy and politics, the influence of modern philosophy represents an ongoing dialectic between ambitions for the rational ordering of society and the critique of any effort to universally standardize human experience. The central questions that must be addressed are: What is the nature of the mind we use to craft policies? What are the historical effects of rationalist political thinking? What are its limits and the risks posed by the sovereignty of reason within the sphere of public policymaking? The sovereignty of mind, initiated by its emancipation in the empiricist tradition of Francis Bacon and culminating in Kant's critical philosophy, laid the foundations for the grand projects of institutional modernization and policy development. However, with the emergence of anti-essentialist critiques in the 20th century, rejecting the notion of a fixed “human essence,” political perspectives were reoriented towards emphasizing pluralism, contingency, and cultural relativism as essential conditions for building democratic and inclusive policies. Modern and postmodern philosophy, in relation to policy and politics, thus presents a complex evolution — from the project of constructing a rational and systematically planned world based on the sovereignty of reason, toward a deeper awareness of the irreducible plurality and complexity of social and political realities.

Keywords: Rationality, Policy, Anti-essentialism, Modern philosophy, Democratic governance, Sovereignty of reason, Political reform.

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Reviving Abandoned Heritage: A Cross-Border Network of Albergo Diffuso in Albania and Kosovo

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This study explores a cross-border entrepreneurial initiative aiming to implement the Albergo Diffuso model in Albania and Kosovo, as a means of revitalizing abandoned traditional houses and fostering sustainable tourism. The Albergo Diffuso concept offers a decentralized hospitality experience by repurposing existing heritage buildings while preserving local identity and involving resident communities. The project proposes the creation of an integrated network of such accommodations, offering visitors a unique and immersive experience rooted in local culture and daily life. The methodology involves a qualitative assessment of 20 rural villages and urban heritage areas across both countries. Key evaluation criteria include architectural integrity, infrastructural readiness, community engagement, and local economic potential. A 5-point Likert scale was used to standardize and compare the revitalization potential of each location. The findings aim to support the formulation of a scalable, sustainable tourism strategy grounded in social entrepreneurship, cross-border cooperation, and heritage-led regeneration.

Keywords: Albergo Diffuso, Heritage Regeneration, Sustainable Tourism, Community-Based Tourism Cross-Border Cooperation

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Regulatory Sandboxes and Financial Innovation: Towards a Transnational European Model

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Nearly two decades after the 2008 crisis, global financial systems are facing a new challenging environment: that of IT technologies, the basis for fintech, blockchain and cryptocurrencies, which are redefining the boundaries of traditional financial services. The article, therefore, aims to analyse the latest evolution in the development of innovative financial instruments, including the so-called regulatory sandboxes, which could prove useful both for issuers and placers to test new financial products, services and business models with reduced regulatory requirements, without compromising the stability of markets already characterised by mostly speculative instruments, and for the regulator, which could use them as an incubator of standards to test their effectiveness. In this sense, the European Blockchain Regulatory Sandbox is the first significant step towards a more agile regulation of emerging technologies, more uniform and detached from the national "siloed" approach, even if its scope is still limited to only 20 cases per year, with little systemic impact on the European regulatory production and market, as it does not allow real direct tests with regulatory exemptions and is exclusively based on comparisons with hypothetical or ongoing cases between parties. In order to ensure the most comprehensive view of the cooperation between financial intermediaries and supervisors, the thesis adopts an interdisciplinary approach, combining legal and economic elements. The work is based on analysis of official documents from national banks, national and European regulators, as well as academic articles, with the aim of identifying the opportunities and limitations of a hypothetical transnational sandbox, all through a comparative analysis of national sandboxes already operating successfully in their reference country, such as the United Kingdom and Lithuania, which act as pioneers in this field of research and inspire European transnational initiatives. In this way, it will be possible to understand how many of these effects would be transposed and amplified in a European cooperation context.

Keywords: IT technologies, fintech, regulatory sandbox, European financial regulation, innovation policy

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New skills for the development of tourist destinations

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The profound transformations that have taken place in the last decade in people's lifestyles have decisively changed tourism needs, forcing the market to orient its way of operating on the market in a logic that goes from tourism to tourisms.

Among the factors that have had the most significant impact on these transformations, and that have contributed to making tourism the most relevant social phenomenon in contemporary society, we find: the spread of the Internet and Social Networks, as indispensable tools both for those who offer tourism (reception and information, promotion of the tourist destination, etc.) and for those who demand tourism (booking and purchasing of products, services and experiences related to travel, etc.); the rise of low-cost airlines, that is, those that offer air transport services at very low prices compared to those of traditional airlines; the self-composition of the journey and tourist stay, perhaps through the use of one's own smartphone; a way of doing tourism that privileges the qualities that compose it in the choice of the tourist destination.

The result of this situation is that, today, those processes of tourism development that are based on the sustainable planning of destinations that are, or aspire to be, considered tourist destinations are competitive, and that assign a leading role throughout modernity that has not been recognized to local communities, and which are asked to take an active part in welcoming tourists and in the sustainable organization of their territory.

In this context, it is quite clear the imperative need to have innovative professional figures, first of all able to read the territory, both in terms of tourist potential and impossibility, and sustainable prospects. Professionals capable of implementing the most suitable strategies for the development of tourist destinations, through the aid of advanced knowledge that, in harmony with the principle of interdisciplinarity, are capable of producing innovative actions aimed at the qualification and requalification of the tourist offer on a territorial basis, also through the creation and launch of new competitive tourist products at an international level.

This paper will address this issue by proposing as a case study the recent redesign of the university courses in tourism at the University of Calabria, which has updated and radically revised its educational offering, taking into account what has just been highlighted above regarding the skills needed today to compete in the increasingly crowded and competitive tourism market.

Keywords: higher education; tourism professionals, local tourism development

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YOUNGER SESSION



Strategic Conditioning through Soft Power: How EU Cross-Border Programs Reorient Economic Development Paths in Non-Member Mediterranean Countries

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The European Union has often been described as a normative power, but in recent years its external action has taken on an increasingly economic character. This paper explores how EU-funded cross-border cooperation programs—particularly ENI CBC MED and Interreg MED—can shape the economic development trajectories of non-member Mediterranean countries, not through coercion, but through what might be considered a strategic form of soft power. Rather than simply supporting local development needs, these programs tend to promote sectors that reflect the EU's own strategic interests, such as green transition, sustainable tourism, and agri-food innovation. While these sectors are undoubtedly important, this paper questions whether they always correspond to the actual priorities identified by partner countries like Tunisia, Albania, or Morocco. The analysis combines data from EU project databases (2014–2020) with policy documents and national development plans. It also includes several illustrative case studies that show how funding has consistently flowed toward EU-aligned sectors, occasionally overlooking local economic goals like industrial diversification or infrastructure development. What emerges is a more complex picture of soft power—one that doesn't operate through cultural appeal alone, but through structured economic incentives that influence territorial specialization. The paper suggests that while these partnerships can bring tangible benefits, they also risk limiting local agency and fostering a form of strategic dependency.

Keywords: EU Soft Power; Strategic Conditioning; Cross-border Cooperation; Smart Specialisation; Territorial Development

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Developments in Information Technology and features of students' communication with the Specialists of Citizen Reception Office in the Municipality of Tirana

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Citizen Reception Office in the Municipality of Tirana, which until November 2023 was located within the premises of the Municipality of Tirana in the city center, close to Skanderbeg Square, has welcomed 68.000 citizens under 97 One-Stop-Shop services until the end of that same year. Students occupy a specific low weight in terms of receiving direct services from the citizens' reception office, about 489 students per year or 0.7% of the total number of citizens received and 2.5 % of the total number of students of the University of Tirana. This is related not only to their special status as young citizens and committed to university objectives, but especially to their navigation in various networks where they are informed about almost everything in real time. The Municipality of Tirana has designed and established for students a series of specific programs of financial facilitation, housing, teaching practices and their promotion related to some services dedicated to them, which are offered mainly online or directly in units set up especially for students at the University and in student dormitories. The necessary data for the realization of this article were collected through the qualitative research method. Approximately 200 conversations in the form of interviews were conducted from January to December 2023, from which direct information was obtained from communication with citizens who came to receive services at the reception office of the Municipality of Tirana, of which 40 were free conversations with students of the University of Tirana. This paper reveals the communication features of students of the University of Tirana, in the Citizen Reception Office, who address this office only in cases when they have not received a response from the online program, when they want to file a complaint or when they seek to obtain more information through face-to-face communication with one of the municipality's specialists in cases when the online information, according to them, is insufficient or unclear.

Keywords: Communication, Citizens, Students, Face-To-Face Information, Online Information, Youth Programs.

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"Determinants and Challenges Affecting the Financial Performance of Islamic Banks Operating in Morocco: An Empirical Examination."

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This study conducts a thorough examination of the factors influencing financial performance in Morocco's Islamic banking industry. Using a quantitative approach and panel data analysis, the research assesses how bank-specific and macroeconomic variables affect the profitability of five Moroccan participatory banks—Al Akhdar Bank, Bank Al Yousr, Bank Al-Tamweel wa Al-Inma, Bank As-Safa, and Umnia Bank—from 2018 to 2025. Financial performance is measured through Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE). The study analyzes internal bank-level factors such as liquidity, size, asset quality, capital adequacy, operational efficiency, and asset management, alongside external macroeconomic indicators like GDP growth and inflation. By employing panel data methods, the research provides a robust evaluation of how these internal and external factors, both independently and in combination, shape the ROA and ROE of Islamic banks in Morocco. The results aim to offer deeper insights into the profitability and operational efficiency of Islamic banking in an emerging market setting.

Keywords: Islamic Banking, Financial Performance, ROA, ROE

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Cultivating Territories for Preservation: The “Mulinum” Case Study – The First Italian Agricultural Enterprise Founded Through Crowdfunding in San Floro (CZ)

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The prevailing industrial paradigm has precipitated the marginalization of certain regions, fostering uneven geographical development and erosion of regional economies (Harvey). Building upon these premises, a territorialist approach (Magnaghi) will be employed to identify tangible practices capable of fostering the valorization of place-based identities, knowledge, and established productions. Specifically, this paper presents the Mulinum case study, the pioneering Italian agricultural enterprise established through crowdfunding, in the municipality of San Floro (CZ). Through a participatory network involving local stakeholders, Mulinum has restored an ancient mill, thereby revitalizing the organic cultivation of heritage local grains. This initiative has fostered synergy with the natural environment. Finally, drawing insights from this case study, the analysis will focus on the potential of integrating sustainable agriculture and tourism (in light of evolving demands within the tourism sector) to cultivate local and community-based economies, thereby mitigating the risks of abandonment and demographic decline in small rural towns.

Keywords: Local Development; Agri-tourism; Sustainable Agriculture; Sustainability; Environment

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ISBN: 978-2-931089-50-7



Avenue du CASTEL 87, 1200 BRUXELLES (Belgium)

D/2025/15070/02

ABSTRACTS BOOK

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After the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, we are facing a belligerent period with armed conflicts in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and various parts of Africa. We are in the midst of a trade war unleashed by the new US administration and the Catholic world is waiting to find a new leader.

With UNICART Trad Economy & Finance we will analyze these issues both at the corporate and public administration level.

We will address issues related to the green economy, public finance, the tax system; in short, everything that is changing to respond to the needs of regrowth of the entrepreneurial fabric of the various countries and their central economic and financial system.

From 7 to 9 May at the University of Calabria in collaboration with the CPT Calabria (Territorial Public Accounts System), the FENCO (National Federation of Honorary Consuls) we will discuss all this with the contribution of many of our illustrious colleagues from various universities, with the contribution of managers of the Ministry of Economic Development of Italy and Moldova.

We thank all the participants who shared their research and analysis, contributing with their work to the success of this edition of the Conference. This book collects all the accepted abstracts.



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2025

